

with Russian gas major Gazprom and sought a stake in the Sakhalin-III oil and gas project in the far east;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have offered Russian firms a stake in Indian Oil Corporation's proposed 4 billion dollar Paradip refinery and petrochemical project in Orissa; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINESHA J. PATEL): (a) ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), has evinced keen interest to tie up with either Gazprom or Rosneft along with other Russian oil companies to bid for the prospective group of oil and gas exploration blocks in Sakhalin-III, which the Russian Government intends to put for future auction.

(b) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has informed that they have not initiated discussions with any Russian firm for participation in its integrated refinery cum petrochemical complex at Paradeep in Orissa.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Merger of BRPL with IOC

2227. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the reason for the delay in merger process of Bongaigaon Refinery Petrochemical Limited (BRPL) with India Oil Corporation and time-frame, if any, to complete the same;

(b) the development works taken up by the IOC for BRPL since its take-over as the subsidiary industry in the year, 2002; and

(c) the record of annual turnover of BRPL after becoming subsidiary unit of IOC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINESHA J. PATEL): (a) The proposal of merger of Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemical Limited (BRPL) with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) was accorded 'in principle' approval by Board of IOC in June, 2005. The appointment of independent valuers and merchant

bankers took time as the initial response was not encouraging and the quotation had to be obtained again. The fair exchange ratio of shares between IOC and BRPL along with the Scheme of Amalgamation has been approved by respective Boards of IOC and BRPL on 29.11.2006. The proposal would also require approval of the Council of Ministers and Ministry of Company Affairs before the merger is finally effected. It would not be possible to give any time frame for the same.

(b) Subsequent to take over of BRPL by IOC as a subsidiary company, IOC has been extending extensive support to BRPL for sharing knowledge in the field of refinery operations, pipeline operations, research and development, information systems, human resource areas, etc. thereby resulting in improved overall performance of BRPL.

The coordination between BRPL and IOC in the areas of marketing of refinery products resulted in smooth evacuation of products and achieving full capacity utilization for the first time. Additionally BRPL has benefited from the strength of IOC being the largest oil marketing company in the country.

(c) BRPL became a subsidiary of IOC effective 29.3.2001. The annual turnover of BRPL after becoming subsidiary of IOC is furnished below:

Year	Turnover (Rs. Crore)
2001-02	1332
2002-03	2057
2003-04	3196
2004-05	4990
2005-06	6298

National campaign on ethanol blending

†2228. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that national campaign of mixing ethanol in petrol is proposed to be commenced from 1st November;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.